1 Realignment of Metabolism

1.1 Intermediary Metabolism During Normal Pregnancy

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1.1.1 Introduction

Due to the intermittency of our eating pattern, all human intermedial metabolism can be subdivided into two broad categories: the fed state and the fasted state. The fed state begins whenever we eat and metabolic objectives are oriented to provide optimum utilization of ingested nutrients. The fasting state is initiated when levels of circulating fuels have returned to pre-eating values. Regulatory processes are then geared for the production of fuels from endogenous resources in a manner that is parsimonious and appropriate to prevailing energy needs (Freinkel, 1964a; Freinkel, 1969).

In the fed state, the ingested dietary components are utilized for the fulfillment of prevailing oxidative needs and the repair of antecedent catabolism; dietary excesses are stored in anticipation of the longer intervals during which exogenous nutrients are unavailable. Towards the latter objective, special depots are employed for each of the components of the ingested dietary mixture (Fig. 1a).